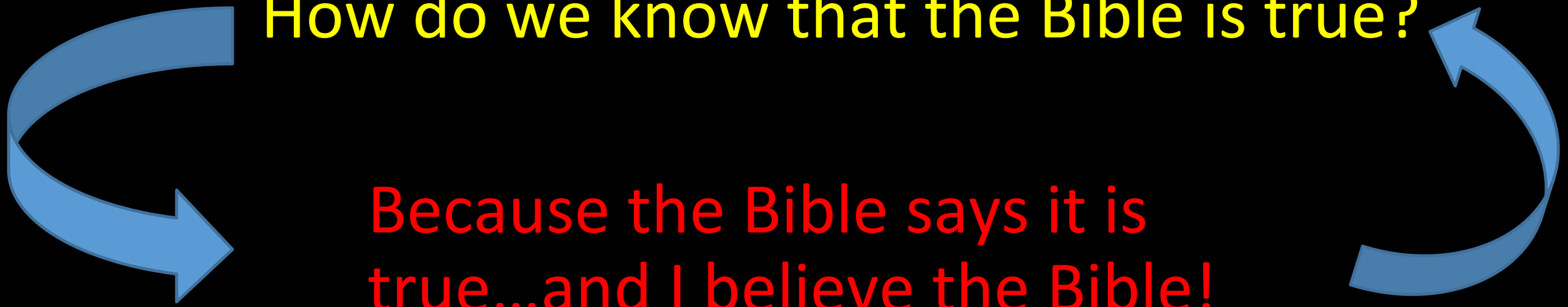
Evidence for the Gospel

Critics of the Bible and of the Christian faith often say that Christians use circular reasoning



And critics would have been right if there had been no corroborating evidence!

Corroborating evidence is independent proof that strengthens or confirms already existing evidence.

Corroborating evidence is a collection of facts and information that backs up someone's story. In a court of law, corroborating evidence is used to uphold the testimony of witnesses.

The Resurrected Jesus in the Upper Room

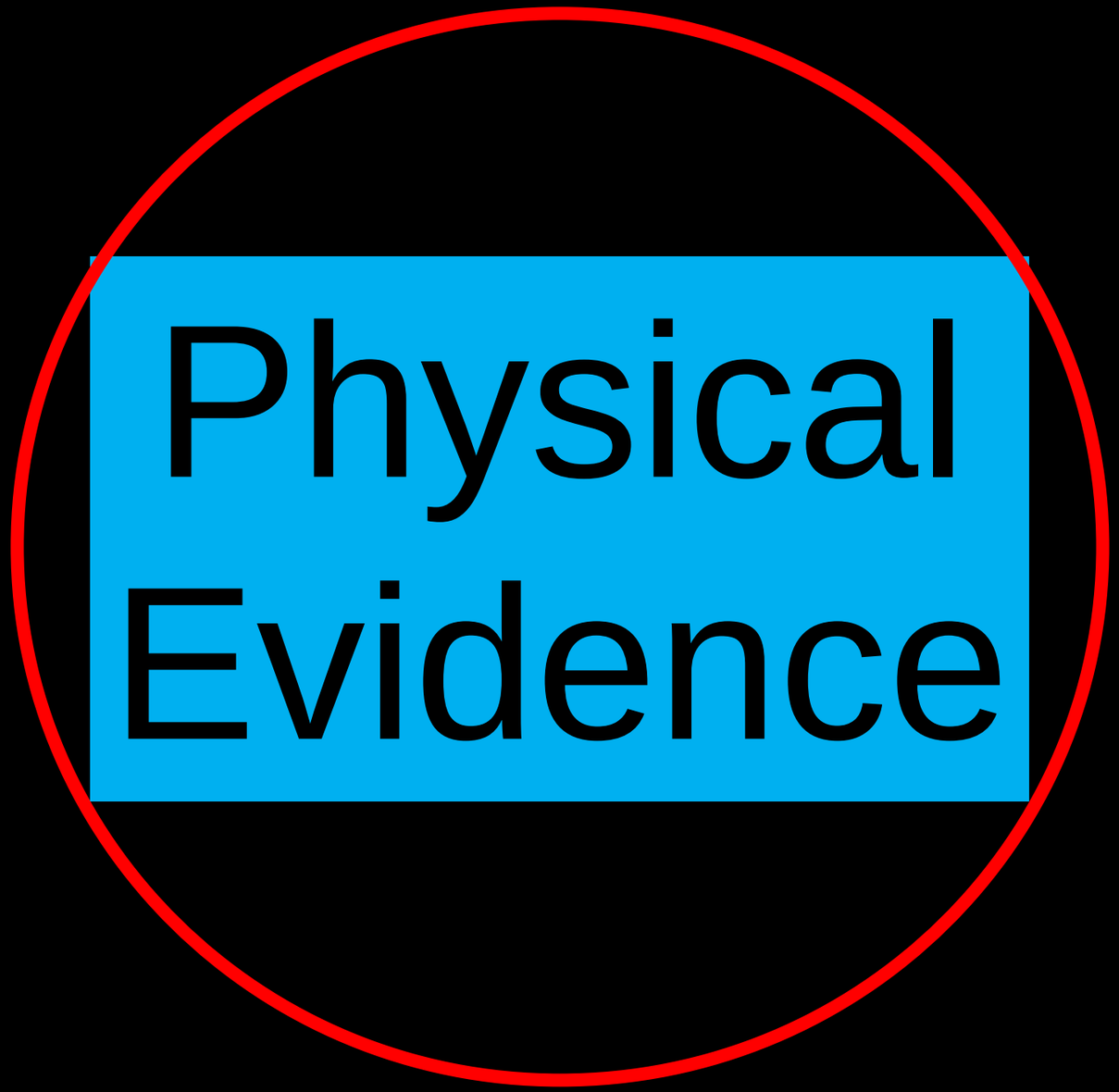
Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace to you.” But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence. Luke 24:36-43

Jesus gave physical evidence of His Bodily Resurrection by eating fish and honey while His disciples watched.

What other physical evidences of the Life, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ do we have?

Jesus, speaking to Nicodemus said: “If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?” John 3:12

Jesus spoke about earthly things like a global flood, Adam and Eve and Creation, the soil, considering living things like ravens and sparrows. He wants us to consider earthly things and to know how they also point to Jesus – the Way, the Truth and the Life.



Spiritual
Evidence

35 Earthly Things that Show that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is Real!

The Ossuary of Zechariah, Father of John the Baptist

ID:19739, Oded Golan Collection, Tel Aviv, Israel. *32°5'N, 34°47'E*

(Source: https://ossuary-bai.org/items/the-zacharias-ossuary/ (accessed July 4, 2026)

Luke 1:1-80

This is the ossuary that contained the bones of Zechariah who is mentioned in the Gospel of Luke, who served as priest. The Ossuary bears the Greek inscription Zacharias or Zechariah, is engraved with remarkable precision, and is decorated on all four sides with an exceptional set of symbolic motifs directly associated with the Jerusalem Temple. Zechariah was miraculously visited by an angel who told him that he would have a son. As a consequence for his doubting the prophetic words of the angel Gabriel, he was struck with the inability to speak until his son John was born. His son John the Baptist went on to prepare the way for the Messiah – the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth. It was discovered in the 1970s and is part of the Oded Golan collection in Tel Aviv, Israel.

2

A Comet Recorded in China - The Possible “Star of Bethlehem”

Lasted for over 70 days in the spring of 5 BC, Right ascension: 19h50m46s, Declination: +08°52'02"

(Source: https://ossuary-bai.org/items/the-zacharias-ossuary/ (accessed July 4, 2026)

Matthew 2:1-10

theskylive.com

2

In the reign of Emperor Ai of Han, Chinese Astronomers record that a comet with tail appeared out of the Constellation Aquila near the star Altair for more than 70 days around the birth of Jesus Christ.

During the Reign of Chinese Emperor Ai of Han, who reigned from 7 BC to 1 BC, recorded in "The History of the Former Han Dynasty", we read: **Second year of the Chien-p'ing reign period, second month (March 9 — April 6, 5 BC), a sui-hsing *(comet with tail)* appeared at Ch'ien-niu *(the star Altair)* for over 70 days.'….Sui *(comets)* are the means of eliminating the old and inaugurating the new….Ch'ien-niu is the place whence the five planets arise, the origin of calendrical reckoning, the starting point of the three standards [of computation]. The appearance of the sui was a sign of change; the long period of its appearance was due to the importance of the incident [to come].**

Colin J. Humphreys' article, "The Star of Bethlehem — a Comet in 5 BC — and the Date of the Birth of Christ," was published in the *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society in December 1991, with the cited page 389*

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theskylive.com

3

The Birthplace of Jesus Christ

Church of the Holy Nativity, Bethlehem, West Bank. *31°42‘15.59”N, 35°12‘27.21"E*

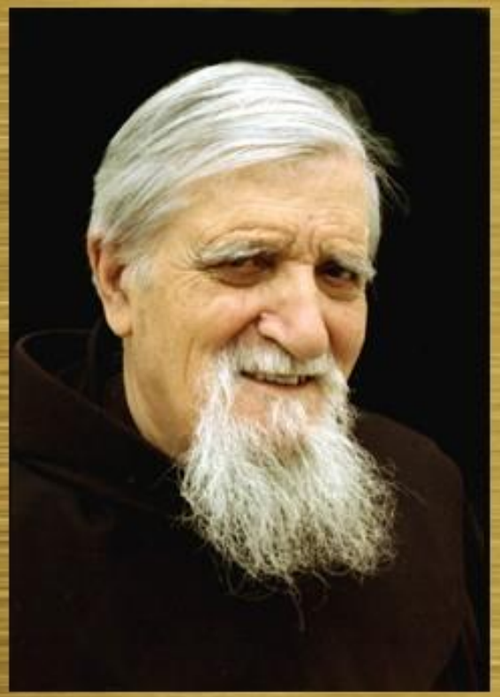
(https://pauseforthought.files.wordpress.com/2009/07/place-of-the-nativity-silver-star.jpg) (accessed December 7, 2018)

Luke 2:4-7

c. 5 BC

The Prophet Micah prophesied around 700 BC that the ruler in Israel, who was from everlasting, would come from Bethlehem, the birthplace of King David. In 1934, excavations beneath the sanctuary of the Church of the Holy Nativity in Bethlehem were carried out by W. Harvey, E. T. Richmond, H. Vincent, and R. W. Hamilton. Beautiful mosaics from the time of the Emperor Constantine in the 4th century were found. Empress Helena ordered this church to be built in 339 AD, and this church is the oldest church in the world that is still in use to this day. This verifies that this location has been considered to be the place of birth of Jesus Christ for nearly 17 centuries. Within the Church of the Holy Nativity is the Grotto of the Nativity. This was a cave which was typical of stables of the first century. Within the grotto is a first century manger and an altar with a silver 14-pointed star that marks the place of the birth of Jesus. The 14 points represent the 14 generations times 3 from Abraham to Jesus in Matthew’s gospel. Pilgrims touch the center of the star and feel the rock of the cave in the place of the birth of the Saviour.

The Discovery of St. Helen's Church of Nativity in 1954



Dr. Fr. Bellarmino Bagatti

1905 - 1990

Italian
Franciscan
Archaeologist

Education:

He became a priest in 1928 and studied at the Pontifical Institute of Christian Archaeology in Rome where he received a doctorate in Christian Archaeology.

Organization/Place of Work

From 1935-1978 he worked at "Studium Biblicum Franciscanum" in Jerusalem, teaching Christian archeology, topography of Jerusalem which he directed (68-78).

Bible Evidence:

Luke 2:4-7

He performed excavations at many sites in Israel including Dominus Flevit, Mt. of Olives, Bethlehem (1961-1964), Nazareth and Mount Carmel. Based on his research he concluded that the church of the nativity is built upon a 4th century church built by Queen Helena.

Google Earth Coordinates: 31°42'15.5" N, 35°12'27.5" E

4

Possible Family Home of Jesus in Nazareth

Sisters of Nazareth Convent, Nazareth, Israel. *32°42'8.60"N, 35°17'50.32"E*

(https://www.livescience.com/49997-jesus-house-possibly-found-nazareth.html/) (accessed December 7, 2018)

The Holy Family returned from Egypt to Nazareth, the town where Jesus spent most of His earthly life. The word Nazareth comes from the Hebrew word for Branch, netzer. In Isaiah 11, we read that the Messiah would be from the line of Jesse and be known as a Branch, netzer. Then the prophet Zechariah foretold that the man whose name is the BRANCH will grow up out of his place and build the temple of the LORD. The Messiah was known as Jesus of Nazareth. In 2006, Dr. Ken Dark, a British archaeologist from the University of Reading, discovered a 1st century Jewish dwelling in the grounds of the Sisters of Nazareth convent. It was a two-storey house with two cisterns for water. It was occupied during the 1st century, then abandoned and used as a burial place with a rolling stone tomb. Then in Byzantine and Crusader times it was a place of Christian worship with an altar indicating that it was a place of pilgrimage. It was known as the Church of Nutrition, where Jesus Christ was nourished and raised in Nazareth.

Discovery of Jesus' Possible Childhood Home in 2006

Dr. Ken Dark

1961 - Present

British Archaeologist

Education:

He received a BA in archaeology from the University of York in 1982. Then received his Ph. D. in archaeology and history from the University of Cambridge.

Organization/Place of Work

Director of the Research Centre for late Antique and Byzantine Studies at the University of Reading. Since 1996 he has been chair of the Late Antiquity Research group.

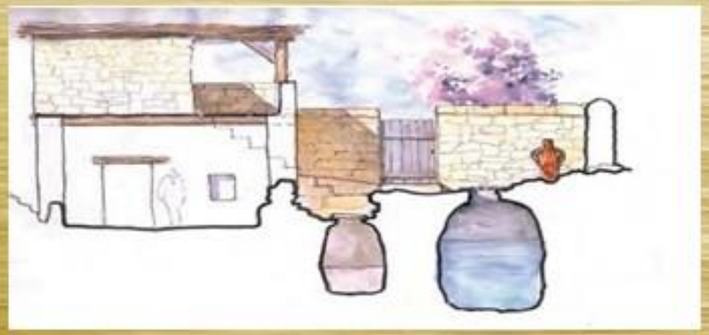
Bible Evidence:

Luke 4:16

He has worked on the Nazareth excavations in the Nazareth Archaeological Project (2006-2010) of the possible 1st century family home of Jesus.

Contact Email:

k.r.dark@reading.ac.uk



Google Earth Coordinates: 32°42'8.60"N, 35°17'50.32"E

5

The Place of Jesus' Baptism

Al-Maghtas, Jordan. *31°50'14.33"N, 35°33'0.24"E*

(https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/world-heritage/baptism-site-al-maghtas-jordan/) (accessed December 8, 2018)

Matthew 3:13-17

c. 29 AD

In 1998, following the clues from the Madaba map, Franciscan friar Dr. Michele Piccirillo found the actual location of the baptism of Jesus Christ. At the site are the remains of the Byzantine Church of St. John the Baptist with a cross-shaped baptismal font, the only one of its kind in the world. This is remembered as the place where John baptized Jesus, and for centuries during Byzantine times thousands of believers were baptized at this site. After being baptized, pilgrims carved crosses to commemorate their baptism. Crosses can be seen by the hundreds here. Ancient pilgrims such as Theodosius, the Piacenza pilgrim, and Abbott Daniel all wrote about the location. Their descriptions matched this place perfectly.

Discovery of Jesus' Baptism Site in 1998

Fr. Dr. Michele Piccirillo

1944 - 2008

Italian Franciscan Archaeologist

Education:

He became a Franciscan Friars Minor on June 24, 1967 and was ordained to the Priesthood on July 5, 1969. Then he received his doctorate in Archaeology from the Institute of Near Eastern Studies at La Sapienza University in Rome, in 1975.

Organization/Place of Work

Piccirillo served as Director of the Museum of the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum in Jerusalem and as Ordinary Professor of Biblical Geography and History at the same Institute.

Bible Evidence:

Matthew 3:13-17

After seeing the evidence from the Madaba map, Father Piccirillo informed HRH Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad, the personal envoy and special advisor to the king. He granted him access to Jordan to search for the baptism site. Then it was found.

Google Earth Coordinates: 31°50'14.33"N, 35°33'0.24"E

Discovery of Jesus' Baptism Site in 1998

Dr. Mohammad Waheeb

1962 - Present

Jordanian Archaeologist

Education:

He received a BA in archaeology from Jordan University in 1984, then an MA in archaeology from Jordan University in 1988. Then he received his Ph.D. In archaeology and tourism, history of art from Ankara University, Turkey.

Organization/Place of Work

He was Director of Field Excavations in Ministry of Tourism/Dept of Antiquities in Jordan. He is associate professor of the Hashemite University and Queen Rania's Institute of Tourism and Heritage, Ramtha, Jordan

Bible Evidence:

Matthew 3:13-17

He has worked on the baptism site as well as many other sites including the ancient city of Petra.

Contact Email:

mwaheeb@hu.edu.jo

Google Earth Coordinates: 31°50'14.33"N, 35°33'0.24"E

6

The Place of Jesus' Temptation for 40 days

Mount Quarantania, West Bank. *31° 52' 26" N, 35° 25' 53" E*

(http://mathewsgoodnews.blogspot.com/2015/02/matthew-4-8-11-third-temptation-of-jesus.html) (accessed December 8, 2018)

Matthew 4:1-11

c. 29 AD

This site is believed to be the place where Jesus fasted forty days and nights and was tempted by the devil. At this location is the Greek Orthodox Monastery of the Temptation. Empress Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Cave of the Temptation in 326 AD. The cave became a monastery in the 6th century and it is now staffed by Orthodox monks who lead tours for visitors.

7

The Synagogue in Nazareth Where Jesus Preached

Nazareth, Galilee, Israel. 32° 42′ 12″ N, 35° 17′ 48″ E

(http://www.israelandyou.com/synagogue-church-nazereth/) (accessed December 8, 2018)

The Synagogue Church is a 12th Century church built by the Crusaders. According to tradition, it is built upon the exact site of the 1st century synagogue where Jesus learned, grew up, preached and was rejected by his own fellow Nazarenes. It was in the care of the Franciscans for centuries until the 18th century when the ruler Daher al-Omar gave it to the Greek Catholics. It is now in the care of the Melchite Catholic Church, which built a modern church next door in 1887.

8

Mount Precipice in Nazareth where Jesus Escaped Death

Nazareth, Galilee, Israel. 32°41'6.00"N, 35°17'54.55"E

(http://www.nazareth360.com/discover/mount-precipice) (accessed December 8, 2018)

The prophet Isaiah foretold the coming Messiah's rejection. He wrote: "He was despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him" (Isaiah 53:3). About 2 km to the south of the center of the city of Nazareth is a cliff which rises to an elevation of 395 m. Here is the place where the unbelieving Nazarenes brought Jesus from the synagogue in order to throw Him down and kill Him. Miraculously, Jesus walked right through the crowd and went on His way to Capernaum. He left Nazareth from the tribe of Zebulun and came to Capernaum in the tribe of Naphtali to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah.

9

The Place of the Call of the First Disciples

Capernaum, Galilee, Israel. 32°53'12.30"N, 35°35'21.29"E

(http://journeys.americamedia.org/2017/02/27/holy-land-2017-day-one-capernaum/) (accessed December 8, 2018)

The prophet Isaiah foretold that the Great Light would come to Galilee, first the Land of Zebulun, where Nazareth is located, then the Land of Naphtali, where Capernaum is located. Somewhere along the northern shoreline of the Sea of Galilee near the city of Capernaum is where Jesus fulfilled prophecy and called His disciples in Matthew 4:18-22. Here, Peter, Andrew, James and John left their nets and livelihood and followed Jesus.

10

The Place of the Feeding of the Five Thousand

Church of the Multiplication, Tabgha, Galilee, Israel. 32°52'23.75"N, 35°32'54.84"E

(http://www.israeljerusalem.com/tabgha-israel.htm) (accessed December 8, 2018)

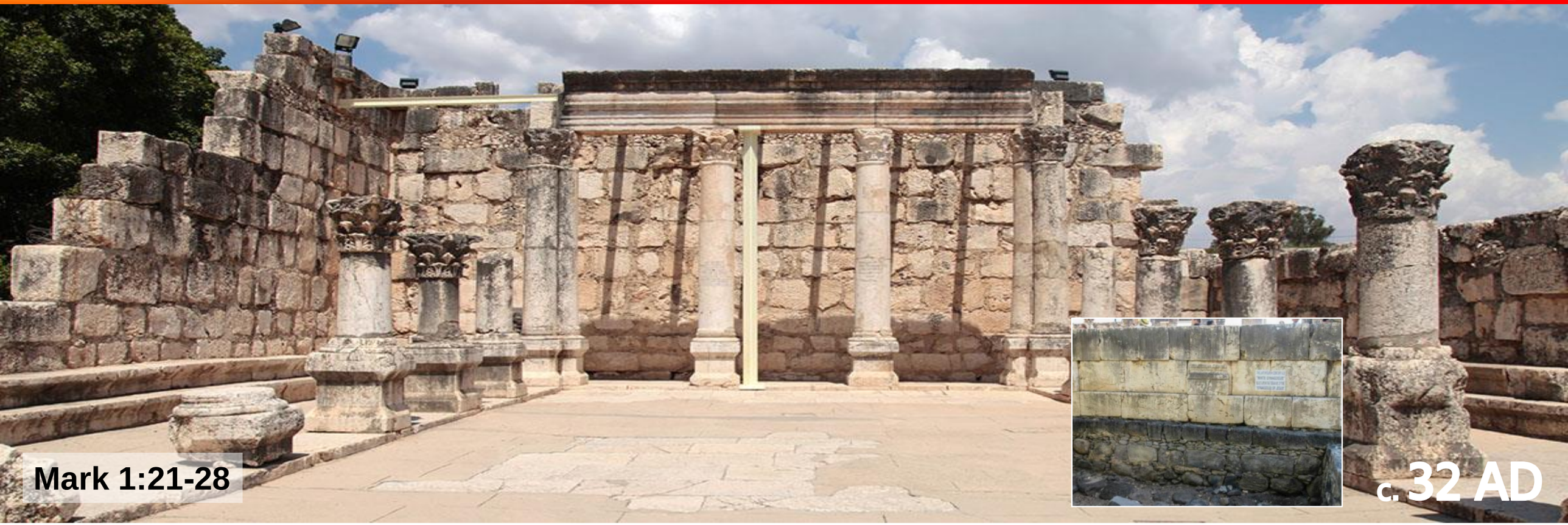
The prophet Micah foretold that the One to be Ruler in Israel would stand and feed His flock and that this One would be great to the ends of the earth. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy when He literally fed thousands with one boy's lunch. In 381 AD the Spanish pilgrim Lady Egeria described the place where Jesus placed the loaves and fishes on a rock, which is now an altar. In that place He multiplied the loaves and fish to feed 5,000 men plus women and children. A Benedictine Catholic church called the Church of the Multiplication was built around the site in 1982. The building next to this beautiful church was burned down in 2015 by radical Israeli youths who were arrested and indicted on charges of arson. However, the main part of the church, and especially the altar, was unharmed by the fire.

11

The Synagogue that Jesus attended in Capernaum

Synagogue in Capernaum, Galilee, Israel. 32°52'51.40"N, 35°34'31.46"E

(https://beitlechem.life/sdslide/my-slidedeck/ruins-of-ancient-synagogue-in-capernaum-israel/) (accessed December 8, 2018)

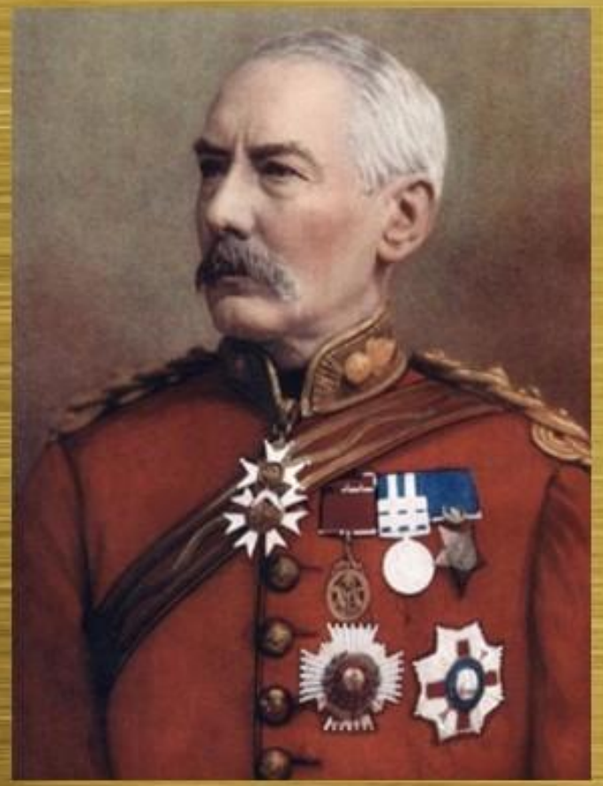


Mark 1:21-28

c. 32 AD

In 1866, British cartographer Captain Charles W. Wilson discovered this ancient late 4th century synagogue in Capernaum. The upper level of white limestone was then partially restored as it stands today. However, it stands on an older 1st century synagogue made of black basalt. This lower synagogue was the one where Jesus cast out a demon and gave his sermon on Him being the Bread of Life (John 6:25-59).

The Discovery of the Synagogue at Capernaum in 1866



Sir Charles William Wilson

1836 - 1905

British Military Officer & Archaeologist

Education:

He attended the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, England. His first appointment was as secretary to the British Boundary Commission in 1858, whose duty it was to map the 49th parallel between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean.

Organization/Place of Work

In 1867 he joined the Palestine Exploration Fund and had a leading role in the Survey of Western Palestine project. In 1868 he joined the Ordnance Survey of Sinai. In 1872 he was elected to the Society of British Archaeology. In 1874 he became a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Bible Evidence:

In 1864 he worked for the Ordnance Survey of Jerusalem then later identified the synagogue at Capernaum in 1866.

Bible Passage:

John 6:35-59

Google Earth Coordinates: 32°52'51.40"N, 35°34'31.46"E

12

Peter’s house in Capernaum where Jesus lived

Capernaum, Galilee, Israel. 32°52'49.30"N, 35°34'31.45"E

(https://www.mikemasonbooks.com/peters-house-chapter-20-of-jesus-his-story-in-stone/) (accessed December 8, 2018)

Matthew 8:5,14

c. 30 AD

In 1921, Italian archaeologist and Franciscan friar Gaudenzio Orfali discovered the octagonal remains of a Byzantine basilica in Capernaum. Orfali was tragically killed in a car accident in 1926 and further excavations were put on hold. Later, in 1968, Italian archaeologist and Franciscan friar Virgilio Corbo, along with other friars, excavated further under the centre of the octagonal church. They discovered that it was built around a 1st century home which had been venerated from the time of Christ through to the Arab period. It is almost certain that this is the home of Peter, his wife and mother-in-law and the home where Jesus also lived. Over top of the 1st century home a large memorial sanctuary was erected in 1990 over the place where Jesus forgave and healed the paralytic man and also healed Peter’s mother in law.

The Discovery of St. Peter's Capernaum House in 1921

Father Gaudenzio Orfali
1889 - 1926

Italian
Franciscan
Archaeologist

Education:

He was educated at the Pontifical University Antonianum. He belonged to the Ordo Fratrum Minorum (OFM). He was president of the Palestinian Archaeologists.

Organization/Place of Work

He spoke Arabic and spent many years in Nazareth.

Bible Evidence:

Father Gaudenzio Orfali was killed tragically in a car crash in 1926.

Bible Passage:

Matthew 8:5, 14

Google Earth Coordinates: 32°52'49.30"N, 35°34'31.45"E

The Discovery of St. Peter's Capernaum House in 1921

Father Virgilio Corbo
1918 - 1991

Italian
Franciscan
Archaeologist

Education:

He graduated from Rome in Christian Oriental Studies.

Organization/Place of Work

Corbo had a long teaching career in the Franciscan Seminary and in the Franciscan Biblical School in Jerusalem. He started excavations on St. Peter's House in 1968 and continued until 1990. He died and was buried next to St. Peter's house.

Bible Evidence:

Corbo also excavated the Shepherds' field near Bethlehem (1946-54), the place of the Ascension on the Mt. of Olives (1959), the fortress of Herod the Great called the "Herodion" near Bethlehem (1962-1967), another Herodian fortress across the river Jordan called Machaerus (1967-1981), a Byzantine basilica and Monastery on Mt. Nebo in Jordan (in the sixties), the ancient city of Magdala (in the seventies).

Google Earth Coordinates: 32°52'49.30"N, 35°34'31.45"E

13

The Mount of the Beatitudes where Jesus Preached the Sermon on the Mount

Near Capernaum, Galilee, Israel. 32°52'55.63"N, 35°33'18.99"E

(http://cannundrum.blogspot.com/2015/07/the-sermon-on-mount-galilee-israel.html) (accessed December 8, 2018)

Matthew 8:5,14

c. 30 AD

In the year 381 AD, the Spanish pilgrim Lady Egeria spoke of a cave in the hillside at the Seven Springs, near Tabgha, “upon which the Lord ascended when he taught the Beatitudes”. The terrace above this still-existing cave, called Mughara Ayub, is considered the traditional place where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. A Byzantine church was erected nearby in the 4th century, but is now in ruins. Uphill from this structure is the Church of the Beatitudes built in 1938 by the Italian Franciscans.

14

Jacob's Well in Samaria where Jesus met the woman at the well

Church of St. Photina, Nablus, West Bank. 32°12'42.74"N, 35°16'39.71"E

(https://barbaralicious.com/en/nablus-and-jenin/) (accessed December 9, 2018)

This is the place where Jesus met with the woman from Samaria and asked her for a drink of water in John 4:1-26. During Byzantine times the site was identified as Jacob's well and was used for baptisms. American Biblical scholar Edward Robinson visited the site in 1838 and said that Jacob's well was a "shapeless mass of ruins". Then the Greek Orthodox church obtained the site in 1860 and built the beautiful Church of St. Photina, (the Samaritan woman's name by tradition), around the well, which has a depth of 41 m. Sadly, in 1979 Israeli extremists brutally killed the custodian of the well, Archimandrite Philoumenos, as they wanted the area to be a Jewish holy site only. In 2009, thirty years after the custodian's martyrdom, he was declared St. Philoumenos.

15

The Tomb of Lazarus in Bethany

Al-Eizariya, West Bank. 31°46'11.94"N, 35°15'51.63"E

(https://blog.obitel-minsk.com/2018/03/exploring-tomb-of-lazarus.html) (accessed December 9, 2018)

John 11:1-44

c. 31 AD

In the year 330 AD, Eusebius of Caesarea mentions visiting the tomb of Lazarus as described in John 11:1-45. By the year 390 AD there was a church dedicated to Lazarus at this site called the Lazarium. In the 16th century the al-Uzair Mosque was built on this site. In modern times, 24 steps descend from the street level to a place of prayer, then a few more steps descend to the antechamber, dating to the first century, where Jesus would have stood. From here Jesus called to Lazarus in his tomb, which was only 2 m^2. Here Lazarus was raised to life after four days of death.

16

The Pool of Siloam where Jesus healed the blind man

Jerusalem, Israel. 31°46'13.18"N, 35°14'7.19"E

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfmefLuioVo) (accessed December 9, 2018)

The Prophet Isaiah foretold that God would come and save His people – then the eyes of the blind would be opened. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy when He opened the eyes of the blind man. In 2004, workers who were repairing a large water pipe drainage system uncovered ancient steps. Then Dr. Ronny Reich and Eli Shukron, both Israeli archaeologists, excavated further and discovered that this is the Biblical site of the Pool of Siloam, fed by the Gihon spring, in the city of David in southern Jerusalem. Further excavation is difficult as the rest of the pool lies underneath property owned by the Greek Orthodox Church. This is the place where Jesus said to the blind man to go and wash after he put mud on the man's eyes in John 9:1-7.

The Discovery of the Pool of Siloam in 2004

Dr. Ronny Reich

1947 - Present

Israeli Archaeologist

Education:

He received his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He obtained his Ph. D. with his dissertation on Jewish ritual baths in the second temple period.

Organization/Place of Work

He is now professor at the University of Haifa, Israel in the department of Archaeology where he serves as dept. head.

Bible Evidence:

John 9:1-5

He discovered the Biblical site of the Pool of Siloam in Southern Jerusalem and in the city of David.

Contact Email:

ronny@research.haifa.ac.il

Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'13.18"N, 35°14'7.19"E

The Discovery of the Pool of Siloam in 2004

Eli Shukron

Israeli Archaeologist

Education:

Shukron received his master's degree from the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Organization/Place of Work

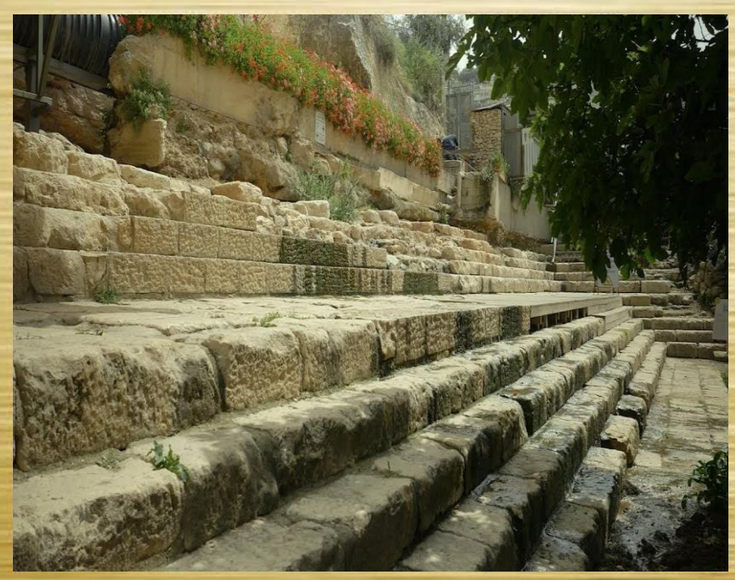
He works for the Israeli Antiquities Authority

Bible Evidence:

John 9:1-5

He discovered the Biblical site of the Pool of Siloam in Southern Jerusalem and in the city of David. He has been excavating for past 18 years.

Contact Email:



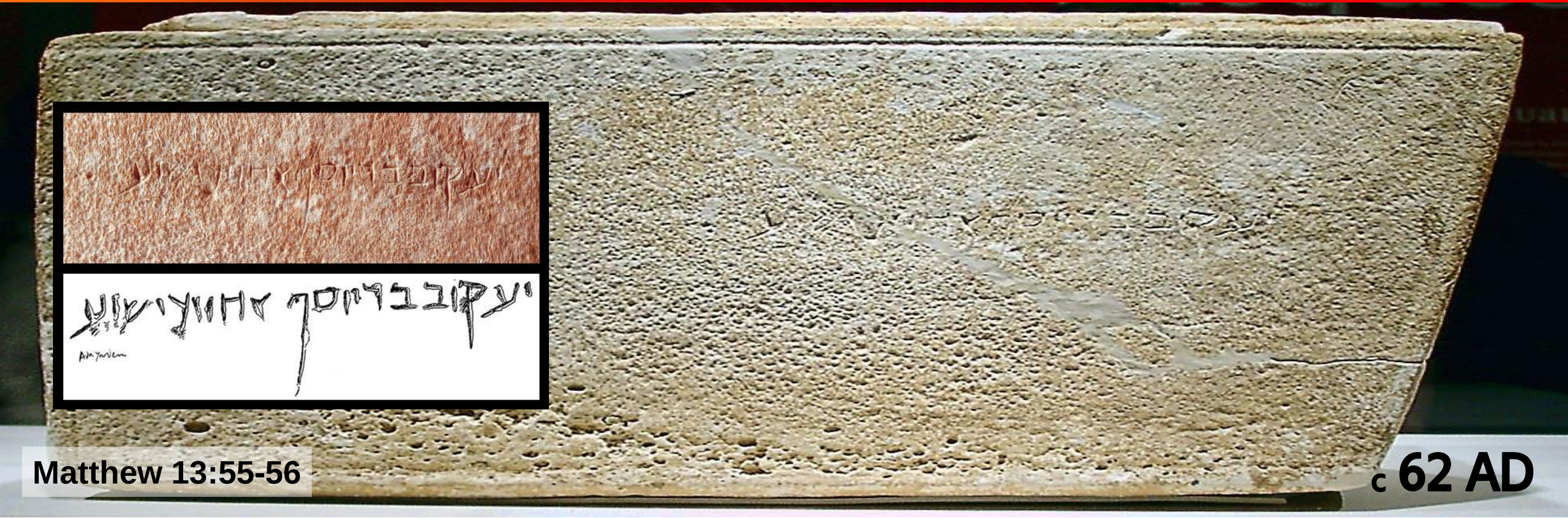
Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'13.18"N, 35°14'7.19"E

17

Ossuary of James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus

Private Collection of Oded Golan in Tel Aviv, Israel. 32° 4′ 0″ N, 34° 47′ 0″ E

(https://thespiritualforge.blogspot.com/2012/03/james-ossuary-verdict-does-it-matter.html) (accessed December 10, 2018)



Matthew 13:55-56

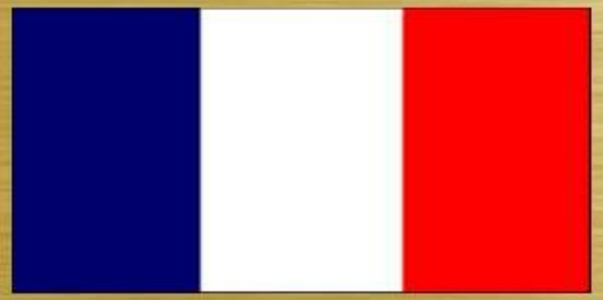
c 62 AD

A stone box containing the bones of James, the half-brother of Jesus and leader of the Jerusalem church, was purchased in the 1970s for a few hundred dollars by Oded Golan, an Israeli engineer. He kept it for years with no idea what the inscription meant. When it was later examined, the ossuary read: “Jacob (James) son of Joseph, Brother of Jesus”. James was the half-brother of Jesus according to Matthew 13:55-56. This ossuary was examined by Andre Lemaire, French Epigraphist and later Israeli Paleographer, Ada Yardeni. In 2002 Lemaire declared it to the world as the ossuary of James the brother of Jesus Christ. However, this discovery was later contested by the Israel Antiquities Authority and Oded Golan was charged with forgery. Ada Yardeni, after examining the ossuary and inscription, said: “If this is a forgery, I quit!” After an almost 8 year trial in an Israeli court, Oded Golan was cleared of all charges, for the court could not prove it was a forgery. Even Israeli archaeologist Gabriel Barkay believes it to be authentic. It is therefore the oldest written inscription referring to Jesus Christ.

Discovery of the Ossuary of James, Brother of Jesus in 2002

Andre Lemaire

1942 - Present



French Paleographer

Education:

He is professor of Hebrew and Aramaic philology and epigraphy at the Sorbonne University in Paris.

Organization/Place of Work

He is an epigraphist, historian and is Director of École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris-Sorbonne.

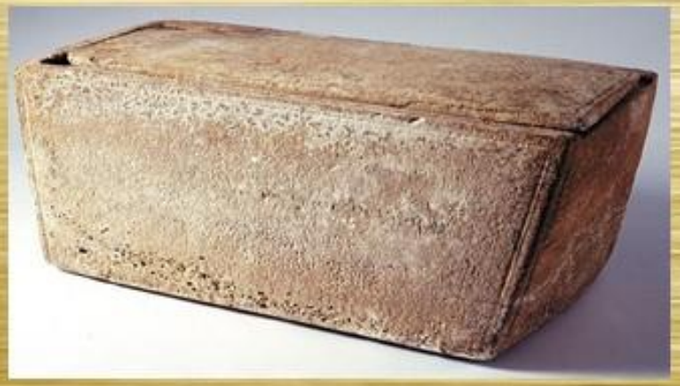
Bible Evidence:

Matthew 13:55-56

Andre Lemaire did not change his position that he believes that the James' ossuary and inscription are both ancient and authentic.

Contact Email:

andrelemaire@hotmail.com



Google Earth Coordinates: Currently stored in undisclosed location

Discovery of the Ossuary of James, Brother of Jesus in 2002

Ada Yardeni

Israeli
Paleographer

Education:

She received her diploma of Graphic Arts from Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design (1960). Then BA in Hebrew Language (1976), MA (1983) and PhD (1991) in Semitic Languages and Paleography from The Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

Organization/Place of Work

She is professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem at the Institute of Arts and Letters, Faculty of Humanities.

Bible Evidence:

Matthew 13:55-56

Hebrew Paleographer who examined the James' ossuary and stated in 2002 that she had no doubt that it was of ancient origin, and that it was inscribed by a single individual. "If this is a forgery…I quit."

Contact Email:

ada.yardeni@mail.huji.ac.il

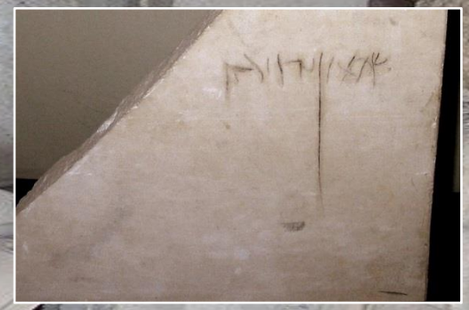
Google Earth Coordinates: Currently stored in undisclosed location

18

Ossuaries of Simon son of Jonah, Mary, Martha and Sapphira

Dominus Flevit Church Grounds, Mount of Olives, Jerusalem, Israel. 31°46'40.15"N, 35°14'30.24"E

(https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Holy_Land_2016_P0666_Dominus_Flevit_Church_ossuary.jpg) (accessed December 13, 2018)

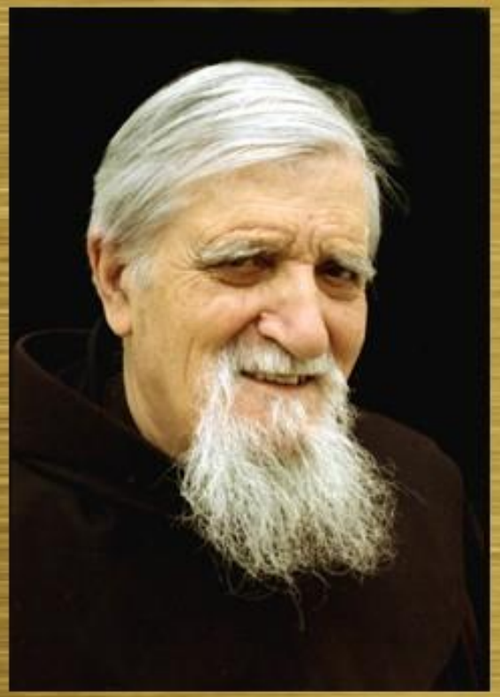


Luke 13:34

c 62 AD

In 1953, while excavating on the Mount of Olives before the construction of the Dominus Flevit Church on this hill where Jesus wept for Jerusalem, Italian Franciscan archaeologist Dr. Father Bellarmino Bagatti found many ossuaries in three different caves. In one of the caves, he found a Christian symbol, the Greek Chi-Ro, which identified it as a Jewish Christian burial, at tomb number 79. In tomb number 79 they found an ossuary bearing the name Simon son of Jonah, which is the name of Simon Peter. As well, in tomb number 70 they found an ossuary bearing the names Mary and Martha, who were both from Bethany, as mentioned in detail in the gospels. Their findings were published in 1958 in “Gli Scavi del “Dominus Flevit” parte I”, along with Father J. T. Milik, an expert in ancient languages and who was central to deciphering the Dead Sea Scrolls. This is direct physical evidence from the first century of the existence of Mary and Martha, as mentioned in Luke 10:38-42.

The Discovery of Mary, Martha, Sapphira and Simon Peter Ossuaries



Dr. Fr. Bellarmino Bagatti

1905 - 1990

Italian
Franciscan
Archaeologist

Education:

He became a priest in 1928 and studied at the Pontifical Institute of Christian Archaeology in Rome where he received a doctorate in Christian Archaeology.

Organization/Place of Work

From 1935-1978 he worked at “Studium Biblicum Franciscanum" in Jerusalem, teaching Christian archeology, topography of Jerusalem which he directed (68-78).

Bible Evidence:

John 11:1-2; Matthew 4:18-20

He performed excavations at many sites in Israel including Dominus Flevit in 1953-1955. At the Dominus Flevit site he uncovered many ossuaries with New Testament names such as “Mary, Martha” and “Simon son of Jonah”.

Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'40.15"N 35°14'30.24"E

The Discovery of Mary, Martha, Sapphira and Simon Peter Ossuaries

Fr. Józef T. Milik

1922 - 2006

Polish
Linguist

Education:

He studied at the Catholic University of Lublin and became a priest in 1946. He later married and left priesthood.

Organization/Place of Work

He worked with the publication team deciphering hundreds of texts from the Dead Sea Scrolls including the Book of Enoch.

Bible Evidence:

John 11:1-2; Matthew 4:18-20

He was an expert in languages and deciphered hundreds of Dead Sea Scroll texts and who authenticated the inscriptions on ossuaries found at Dominus Flevit.

Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'40.15"N 35°14'30.24"E

Inscription:
“Mary, Martha”

Left:
Chi-Ro Symbol

Right Inscription:
“Simon bar Jonah”

19

The Gate of the Triumphal Entry of Jesus

Golden Gate, Jerusalem, Israel. 31°46'44.13"N, 35°14'14.03"E

(https://unitedwithisrael.org/the-golden-gate-a-door-of-promise-for-the-future/) (accessed December 10, 2018)

Matthew 21:1-11

c 31 AD

The prophet Zechariah foretold that the King of the Jewish people would come to Jerusalem, a just person and having salvation, humble and riding on a young donkey. Then the prophet Ezekiel foretold that the Lord God of Israel would pass through the Eastern gate and that it should remain sealed. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy as He entered Jerusalem's Golden Gate that great day. This gate was sealed in 1541 AD by the Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent. However, in 1969, Dr. James Fleming, who was then completing his Master of Archaeology degree, was leading a group of pilgrims near the Yeusefiya Islamic Cemetery, outside Jerusalem's Eastern Gate. As he approached the closed Golden Gate near the cemetery to take a picture of the arch, he fell through the floor of a tomb 8 feet (2.4 meters) down and landed on top of a pile of bones. It was a mass grave with 46 individuals buried there in the past 100 years or so. Fleming grabbed his camera and took a photograph of an ancient arch which was underground—the very arch of the Eastern Gate from the time of Jesus when He came through this gate into the temple in Jerusalem.

20

The Garden of Gethsemane

Jerusalem, Israel. 31°46'43.93"N, 35°14'23.31“

(https://itsabeautifulgospel.wordpress.com/2011/06/06/the-garden-of-gethsemane/) (accessed December 10, 2018)

The prophet Joel foretold that He would gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat and enter into judgement with them there on account of the Jewish people whom they had scattered among the nations. The Garden of Gethsemane is located in the Valley of Jehoshaphat. St. Jerome (c. 347-420 AD), a historian and priest in ancient times, mentions Gethsemane, which means “oil press”, the place where Jesus prayed with His disciples before His arrest as found in Luke 22:39-46. There was a 4th century church built at the site in the days of St. Jerome, but it was destroyed by the Persian army under general Shahrbaraz in 614 AD, then rebuilt only to be destroyed again in 746 AD by a powerful earthquake. The Church of All Nations is located here, built upon the ruins of the Byzantine and Crusader churches. It was built in 1922 by the Franciscans and 16 nations in total went in together to help build the church. Within this church is a large rock where it is believed Jesus prayed in agony and His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. It is a sacred space where visitors must be extra quiet in reverence. In the garden are ancient olive trees which could have been the very same ones Jesus saw in his time of agony before the cross.

21

The Ossuary of Caiaphas, High Priest who Tried Jesus

Found in Peace Forest, Jerusalem, Israel. *31°45'31.00"N, 35°13'43.00"E*

Now in Israel Museum, Israel. *31°46'19.39"N, 35°12'14.73"E*

(https://holylandphotos.wordpress.com/2017/04/05/bone-box-of-caiaphas-the-high-priest/) (accessed December 7, 2018)

Matthew 26:3-4

c 36 AD

Construction workers discovered a burial chamber in 1990 in the Peace Forest, South Jerusalem. Dr. Zvi Greenhut, an Israeli archaeologist with the Israeli Antiquities Authority, examined the chamber. Inside this burial chamber were 12 ossuaries, or bone boxes, belonging to the family of the high priest before the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. One ossuary was ornately decorated and had an inscription in Aramaic which read "Joseph son of Caiaphas". Within this ossuary were the bones of an approximately 60-year-old male. It also held the bones of two infants, two teenage boys and an adult woman. The Jewish historian Josephus relates that "Joseph who was also called Caiaphas" was made high priest by the Procurator Valerius Gratus in 18 A.D. and that he was removed by the Procurator Vitellius in 36 A.D. So, this is definitely the ossuary of Caiaphas the high priest who schemed to put Jesus to death, as recorded in Matthew 26:3-4. It is now on display at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

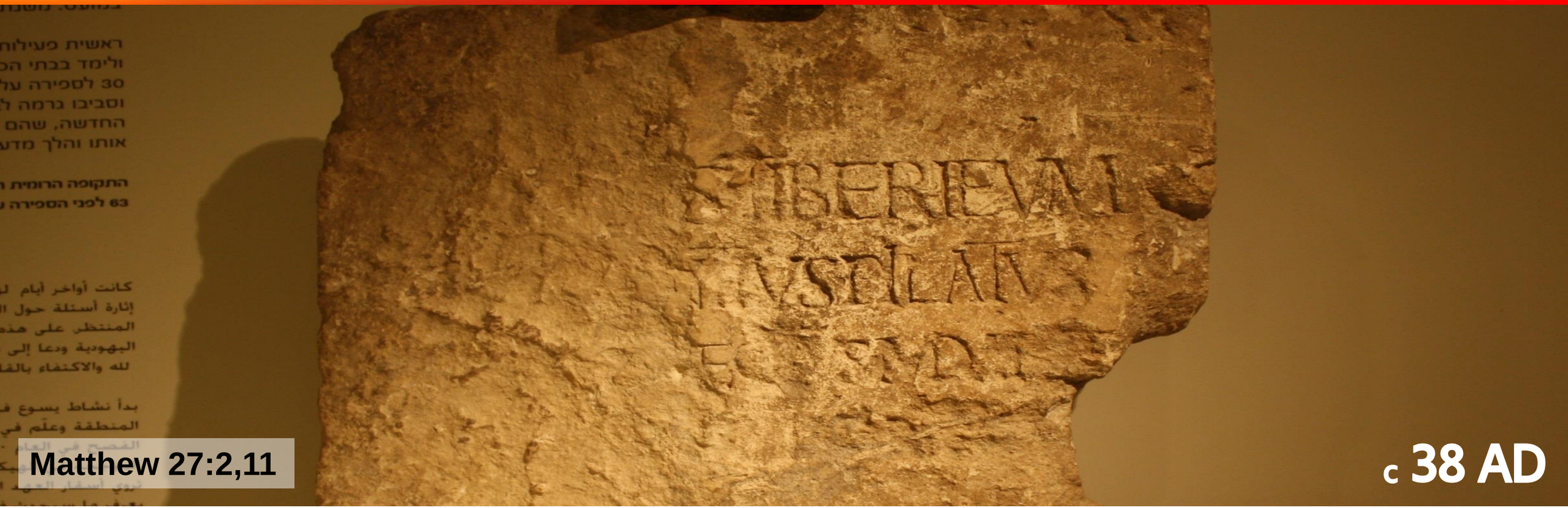
22

The Inscription of Pontius Pilate, Roman Governor of Judea

Found in Theatre in Caesarea, Israel *32°29'45.68"N, 34°53'27.49"E*

Now in Israel Museum, Israel. *31°46'19.39"N, 35°12'14.73"E*

(https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pontius_Pilate_Inscription.JPG) (accessed November 23, 2018)



Matthew 27:2,11

c 38 AD

In Matthew 27:1-11 we read about Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor who tried Jesus. Unfortunately, there was no concrete evidence for Pontius Pilate's existence until in an archaeological team led by Dr. Antonio Frova, Italian archaeologist, and his team excavated the ancient port city of Caesarea Maritima in 1961. This city was formerly the capital of the Roman province of Judea, where the Roman governor resided for most of the year. As the theatre in Caesarea Philippi was excavated, Dr. Antonio Frova discovered a stone with an inscription bearing the name Pontius Pilate. The Latin inscription in limestone reads: "To the divine Augustus [this] Tiberium...Pontius Pilatus….Prefect of Judea…..has dedicated [this]." The inscription, originally placed in a Tiberium or temple dedicated to the divine Emperor Tiberius Caesar, was found in the theatre in Caesarea Philippi, but has been moved to the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

23

The Judgement Seat of Pilate (Gabbatha) and the Stone Pavement where Jesus Stood Trial

Bonei Yerushalayem Garden, Armenian Patriarchate,
Jerusalem, Israel, *31°46'25.74"N 35°13'39.74"E*

(https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pontius_Pilate_Inscription.JPG) (accessed November 23, 2018)

Modern archaeologists have determined that Herod the Great’s palace was most likely located on the Western side of the ancient city of Jerusalem in the first century. It was from here that Pontius Pilate ruled as governor over Judea. A gate complex was discovered where Pilate could escape the city in an emergency. It was in this area where Pilate brought Jesus. Dr. Shimon Gibson, a prominent archaeologist, proposed that the "stone pavement" where Pontius Pilate tried Jesus (Gabbatha) was located at the site of Herod the Great's palace in the western upper city of Jerusalem, rather than the traditional Antonia Fortress. He proposed that this was the location of the judgment seat and the stone floor where Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor of Judea, presented Jesus Christ of Nazareth to the crowds saying: “Behold your King”.

24

Ossuary of Alexander, son of Simon of Cyrene who carried Jesus' cross

Inv. #1965, Hebrew University Institute of Archaeology, Mt. Scopus, Jerusalem. *31°47'35.03"N, 35°14'34.68"E*

(https://israelpalestineguide.files.wordpress.com/2010/06/alexander-son-of-simon-ossuary-illustrated-2010-edit.pdf) (accessed November 23, 2018)

Mark 15:21

c 50 AD

In 1941, Israeli archaeologists Eleazar Sukenik and Nahman Avigad found an ossuary along with 10 other ossuaries in a first century tomb in the Kidron valley, south of the village of Silwan. On the side of the ossuary it reads: "Alexander, son of Simon" (The inscription of SIMONALE above was a mistake and so underneath it was written: ALEXANDER SON OF SIMON beneath it. So 2 names and the relationships are put together which match the above passage. However, as well, on the lid of the same ossuary we have another inscription: "Alexander QRNYT." This word QRNYT is a misspelling of the word QRNYH which means Cyrenian. So we have the ossuary of Alexander, son of Simon, from Cyrene. This means that this is almost certainly the ossuary of the son of the man who carried the cross of Jesus. The "Alexander (son) of Simon" ossuary resides in the collection of Hebrew University's Institute of Archaeology located on Mt. Scopus in Jerusalem. Catalogued as Inventory No. 1965, this intriguing artifact has been loaned in the past for exhibition but is unfortunately not on regular public display.

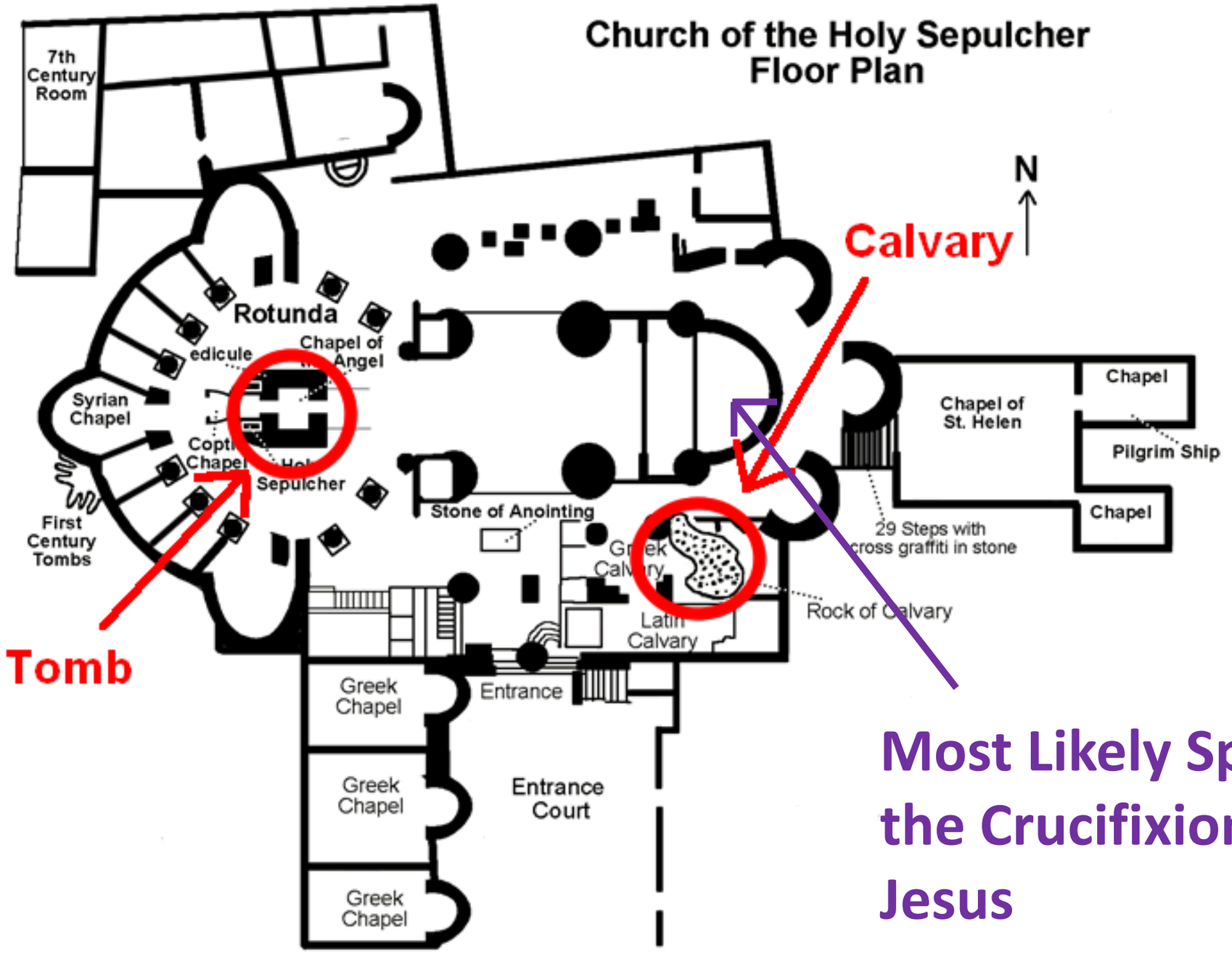
25

The traditional place of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Jerusalem, Israel. 31°46'42.54"N, 35°13'46.55"E

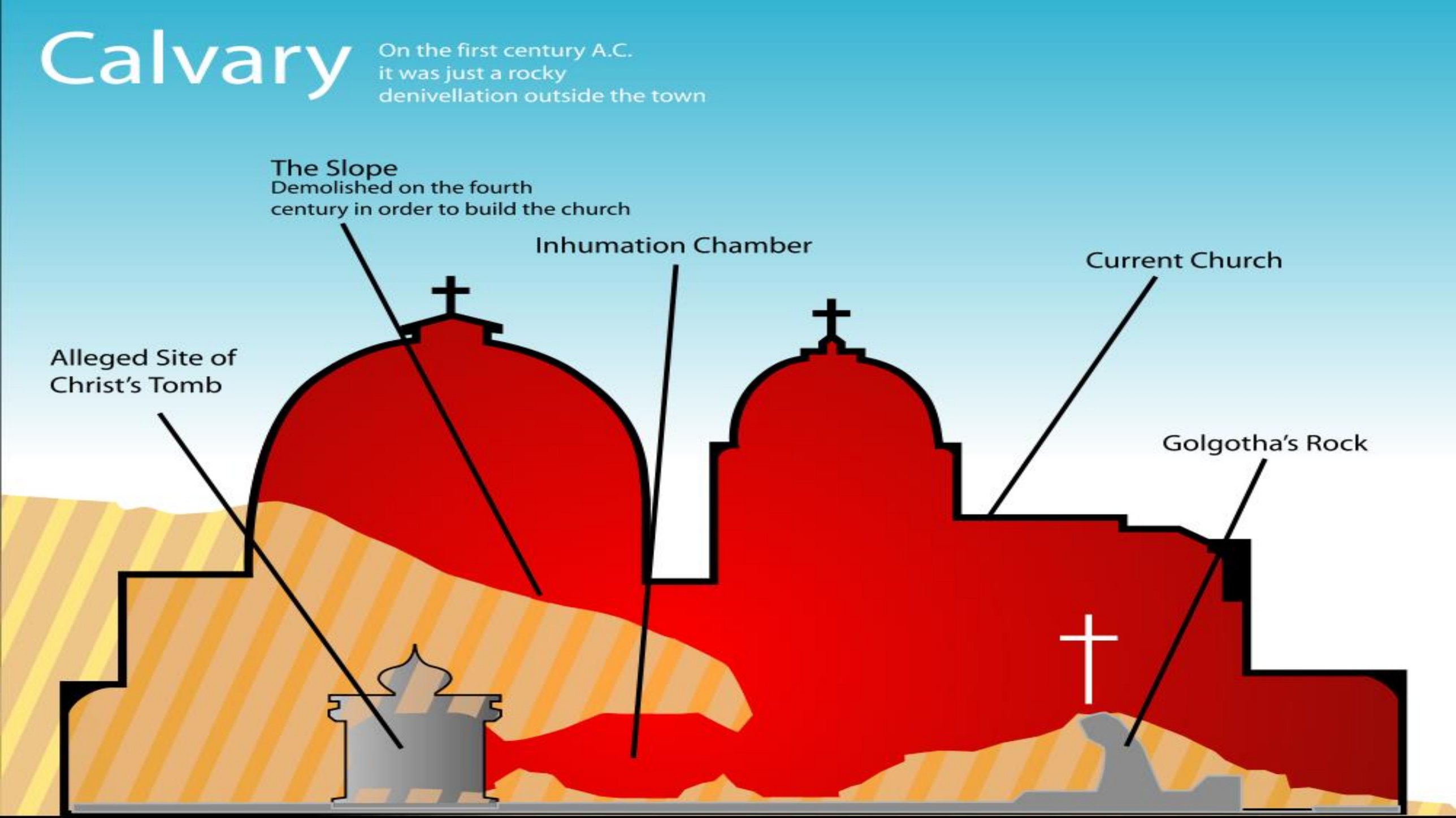
(https://www.ibtimes.co.uk/pictures-jesus-christs-tomb-restored-church-holy-sepulchre-jerusalem-1612903) (accessed December 27, 2018)

The holiest place in Catholic and Orthodox Christianity is the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Built in 335 A.D. this church was filled with smaller places of worship that date back to the 4th century. The most sacred of places would be the site of the crucifixion, an altar, where worshippers can kneel and place their hand down into the rock where the cross is believed to have stood. As well, there is the Edicule, or little house, the empty tomb of Jesus. This was built by Constantine after he became emperor of Rome. The rock-hewn tomb was said to have been mostly removed, leaving the actual inner part of the tomb intact, and an Edicule was built around it. As well, there is the stone of anointing, where it is believed the body of Jesus was laid after the crucifixion. These sites are believed by Catholics and Orthodox believers to be the actual site of the crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus as portrayed in John 19:41.


Church of the Holy Sepulcher
Floor Plan
7th Century Room
N
Calvary
Rotunda
edicule
Chapel of Angel
Syrian Chapel
Copti Chapel
Sepulcher
First Century Tombs
Stone of Anointing
Greek Calvary
Latin Calvary
Rock of Calvary
Chapel of St. Helen
Chapel
Pilgrim Ship
Chapel
29 Steps with cross graffiti in stone
Tomb
Greek Chapel
Entrance
Greek Chapel
Entrance Court
Greek Chapel
Most Likely Spot for the Crucifixion of Jesus

Calvary

On the first century A.C.
it was just a rocky
denivellation outside the town



Evidence of Darkness During Jesus' Crucifixion from China

Imperial South Palace, Yuexiu District
Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China, *34° 37'10.92"N, 112°27'14.04"E*

EMPEROR GUANG WU

Book of Later Han, Volume 1b: Annals of Emperor Guang Wu
7TH YEAR, 31 A.D. [English translation]

On the last day of the month of Gui hai, there was a solar eclipse. He avoided the main hall, put the troops to bed , and did not attend to affairs for five days." The imperial edict read : " My virtue is meager , which has brought calamity upon me . I have witnessed the eclipse of the sun and moon. I tremble with fear; what more can I say? Now I reflect on my transgressions, hoping to avert my calamity. Let all officials fulfill their duties, uphold the laws, and bring blessings upon the people. All officials shall submit sealed memorials without reservation. Those who submit memorials shall not mention the emperor 's virtue." On the day of Ren wu in the fourth month of summer, another edict read: "The yin and yang are in disharmony, and the sun and moon are partially eclipsed. If the people have committed any transgression, I alone will grant a general amnesty.

Source: https://chinesenotes.com/houhanshu/houhanshu003.html

Matthew 27:45; Mark 15:33; Luke 23:44-45

31 AD

Evidence of Darkness During Crucifixion from China

Imperial South Palace, Yuexiu District
Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China, *34° 37′10.92″N, 112°27′14.04″E*

Book of the Latter Han, Treatise No. 18: Astronomy

癸亥日蝕，天人崩。

EMPEROR GUANG WU

"Eclipse on the day of Gui Hai, Man from Heaven died"……

Matthew 27:45; Mark 15:33; Luke 23:44-45

31 AD

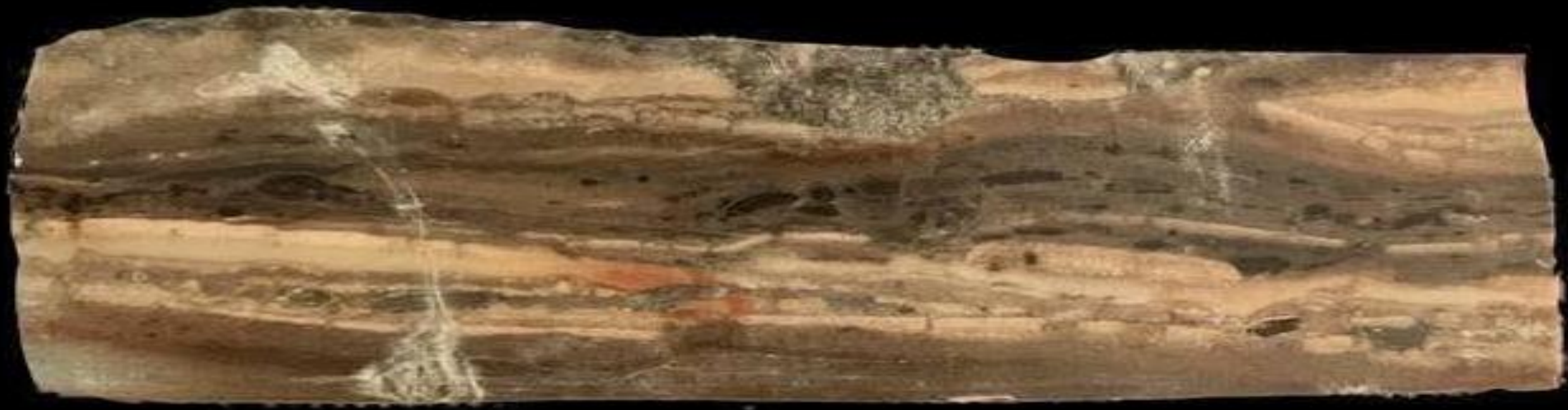
27

Earthquake at time of Jesus' Death seen in Dead Sea Cores

Ein Gedi core "Varve Deposit", Dead Sea, Israel, 31°30'N, 35°30'E

(https://epicarchaeology.org/2023/04/07/and-the-earth-quaked....) (accessed April 22, 2026)

A.D. 31+/- 5 years - Geological Evidence of Matthew 27 - "Earthquake"*

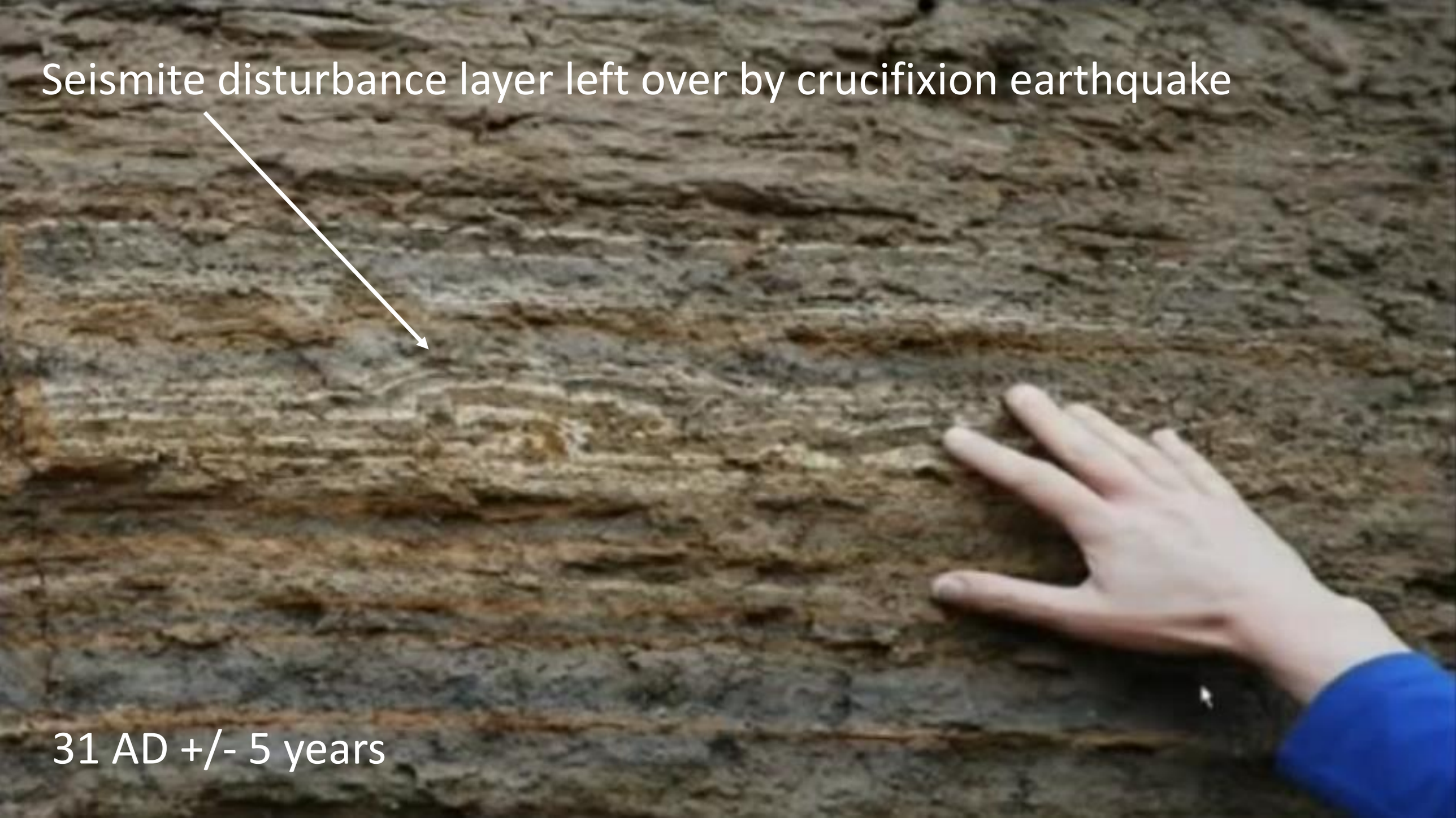


actual stabilized core sample from Ein Gedi, Dead Sea

Paleoseismic Evidence of a 5.5 magnitude earthquake in Jerusalem

Matthew 27:50-54

31 AD


Seismite disturbance layer left over by crucifixion earthquake
31 AD +/- 5 years

28

The Garden Tomb – The Possible Tomb of Jesus Christ

Jerusalem, Israel. 31°48'11.17"N, 35°13'51.89"E

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Garden_Tomb#/media/File:The_Garden_Tomb_2008.jpg) (accessed December 11, 2018)

John 19:41-42

c 31 AD

The prophet Isaiah foretold the Messiah's suffering and death: He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. And they made His grave with the wicked-- But with the rich at His death. Earlier, the prophet David, King of Israel, foretold the resurrection of the Holy One. He writes: For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. This is the place of the burial and resurrection of the Messiah – the tomb of the rich Joseph of Arimathea. In this place, the tomb According to John 19:41, there was a garden tomb near the place where Jesus was crucified. Discovered in 1867 by Conrad Schick, a German archaeologist, the Garden tomb seems to fit the descriptions given in the gospels about Jesus' empty tomb. Firstly, the gospel says that the tomb was located in a garden and that it was a rock-carved tomb, not a natural cave. Excavations revealed a Roman-era winepress and a Crusader-era cistern that can hold almost 1 million litres on the grounds. Perhaps this cistern was expanded from what was a 1st century cistern. This very elaborate tomb has the burial area to the right, as the gospels says, and also has a weeping chamber where the three women went into the tomb. The gospels tell us that two angels sat where Jesus' body had lain—one at the head and one at the foot. This indicates that the tomb was large enough to accommodate five people at one time—and this is true of this unique tomb, for only a rich person could afford such a grave. On the outside there is the track for the rolling stone, a basin for foot washing for early Christians, an anchor cross to the upper left of the doorway (which was the insignia used during the persecuted church era), and a curious fragment of metal in the rock face, which was analyzed and found to be a mixture of iron and lead. These two metals, when used together, would form a very strong seal to perhaps hold the Roman seal which was on the rolling stone. Finally, this place was part of a building, most likely a church at one time, as Byzantine-style archways are visible outside the tomb. All together this site fits the many descriptive points as mentioned in the gospel. Israeli archaeologist Dr. Gabriel Barkay believes that the tomb is not the tomb of Jesus, but is rather a tomb from the 7th century B.C. and that the groove is a Crusader-period water trough for animals. This tomb, however, is an elaborate grave, not a customary grave from the 1st century or earlier centuries, and it matches the Biblical account word for word. The gospels are also talking about an elaborate grave that is also not typical of the 1st century except for the rolling stone, which was used by some tombs during that time.

The Discovery of the Garden Tomb in 1867

Dr. Conrad Schick
M.A., Ph.D.
1822 - 1901

Architect & Archaeologist from Kingdom of Württemberg

Education:

He first studied at the Chrishona Institution at Basle, Switzerland. Then he apprenticed as a watch and clock maker. Later in life he was awarded honorary Masters and Ph.D. from Tubingen University, Germany.

Organization/Place of Work

He worked for the Palestine Exploration Fund and published many articles in German and English. His life work as a missionary and archaeologist and architect for Muslims, Jews and Christians made him beloved by all who knew him.

Bible Evidence:

Conrad Schick discovered the Garden Tomb which fits the Biblical description of the tomb of Jesus Christ.

Bible Passage:

John 19:41

Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'53.04"N, 35°14'8.88"E

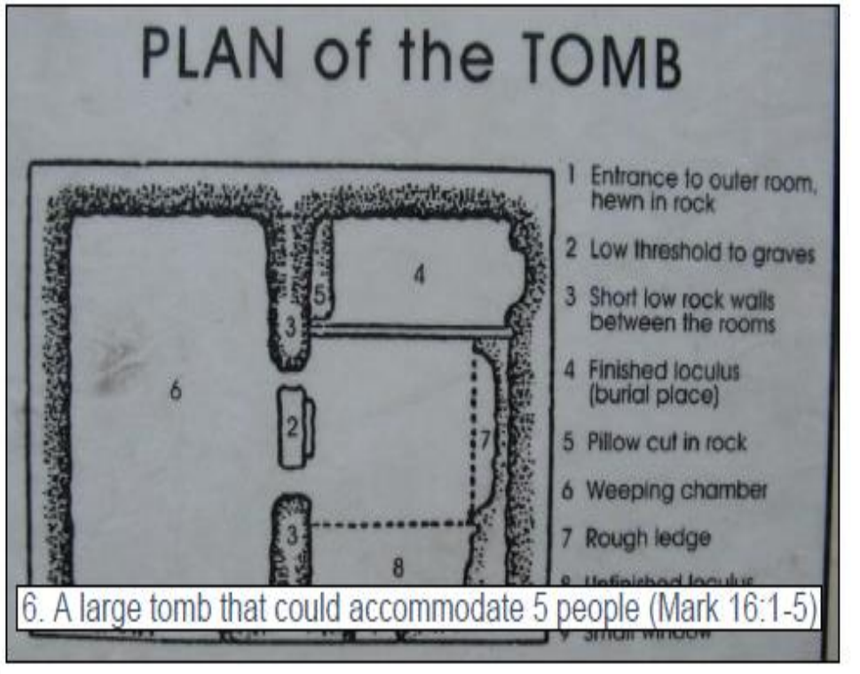
1. The Tomb was located near but outside the city (John 19:20)

2. The tomb was near the "Place of a Skull" (John 19:41)

3. The Tomb was located in a garden (John 19:41)

4. New tomb cut out of Solid Rock (Matthew 27:60)

5. An Entrance requiring one to stoop down (John 20:5)



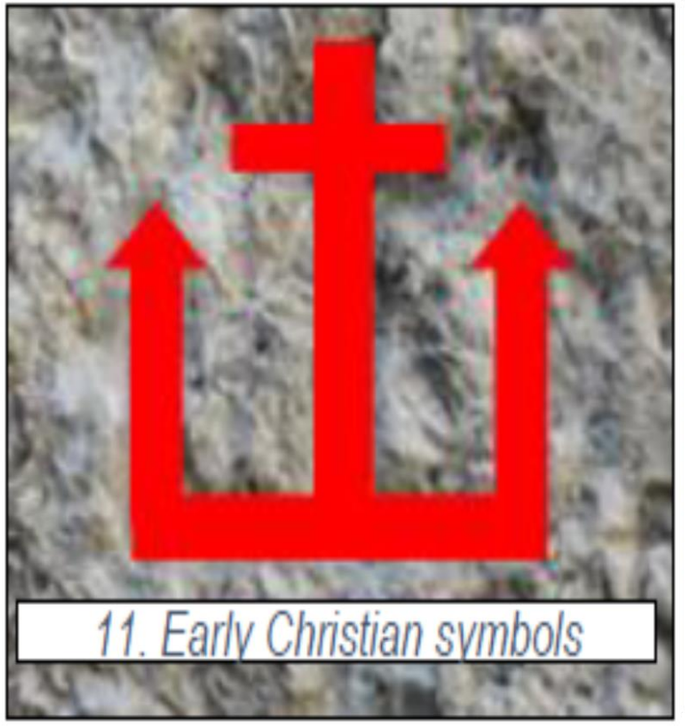
6. A large tomb that could accommodate 5 people (Mark 16:1-5)

7. The burial shelf (R) could accommodate 2 angels (Mark 16:1)

8. A track-guided sealed rolling stone covered the door (Matt. 27:60)

9. Base of Roman seal still in rock

10. Christian symbols of worship


11. Early Christian symbols

12. Byzantine style arch structure with foot washing at left

The Abu Badd Rolling Stone
Mount Nebo, Jordan

Rainbow Circle around the Sun at Resurrection Seen by Imperial Astronomers in China

Imperial South Palace, Yuexiu District
Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China, *34° 37′10.92″N, 112°27′14.04″E*

HISTORY OF LATTER HAN, ANNALS, NO. 18, GUI HAI.

"During the reign of Emperor Guang Wu, on the day of Bing Yin of the fourth month of Jian Wu, a halo–a rainbow–encircled the sun."

The Day of Bing Yin is 3 days after the day of Gui Hai!

How amazing that 2 events that Christians celebrate are actually also recorded in the Chinese records!

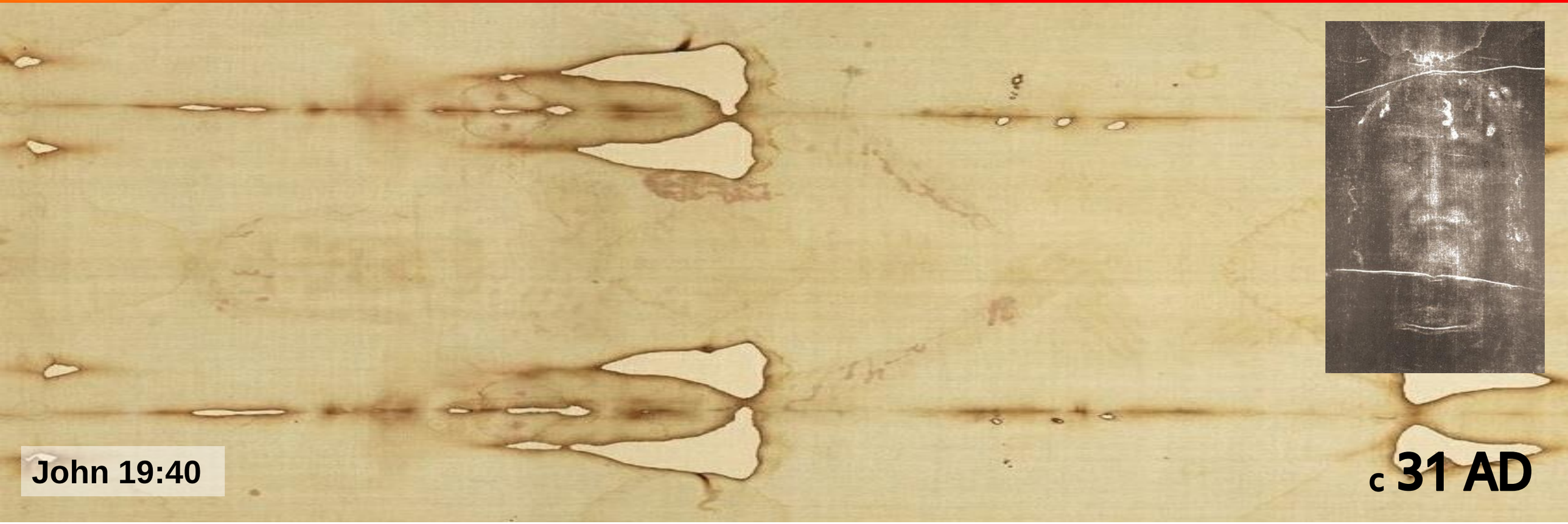
EMPEROR GUANG WU

30

The Shroud of Turin, the Burial Cloth of Jesus Christ

Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Turin, Italy. *45°4'23.65"N, 7°41'8.13"E*

(https://pilgrimcenter.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/turinshroud-full.jpg) (accessed November 23, 2018)



John 19:40

c 31 AD

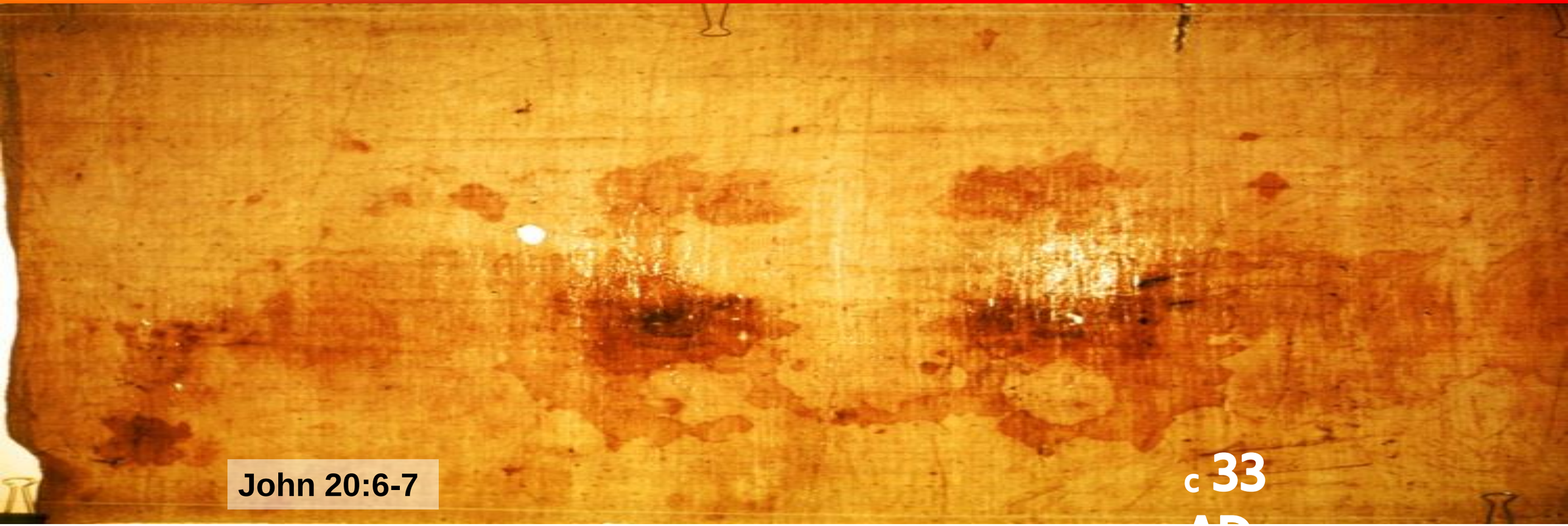
Matthew's gospel tells us that Joseph of Arimathea took the body of Jesus and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his tomb. John's gospel says that the body was wrapped in strips of linen with about a hundred pounds of spices. This means that there must have been a main linen cloth with one or more strips to bind the cloth. This is what we see with the Shroud of Turin – a large (4.4 x 1.1 m) cloth that bears the image of a crucified man. The image is impossible to reproduce and is likely the result of a burst of radiation that was emitted at the time of the resurrection. Although Carbon-14 testing shows it to be a medieval forgery from the 1300s, the Pray manuscript shows that it very likely dates to the 12th century. Matching stains on the shroud and the Sudarium of oviedo show that it can be possibly dated to the 6th century. Pollen grains on the shroud from plants that grow in Palestine put the shroud in Israel. Dirt particles in the Shroud were analyzed and determined to contain calcium and the mineral specifically was concluded to be travertine aragonite limestone, which is the sedimentary rock found in Jerusalem. And if it was in Israel, and was on the same body as the Sudarium of oviedo, it is very likely the burial cloth of Jesus of Nazareth.

31

The Sudarium of Oviedo – The small cloth around Jesus' head

Cathedral of San Salvador, oviedo, Spain. *43°21'45.3"N, 5°50'35.09"W*

(https://www.historicmysteries.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/sudarium_oviedo_light.jpg) (accessed December 7, 2018)



In John's writing, the Greek word used is "sudarion", a special cloth to wipe perspiration from the face. The Sudarium of oviedo was reportedly used 20 centuries ago to cover the head of Jesus. This cloth measures 84 x 53 cm and is kept in the Cathedral of San Salvador, Oviedo, Spain. A careful investigation of the Biblical account of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus shows that there were the cloths that covered the body of Jesus and another "handkerchief, napkin or cloth" that was around Jesus' head. This would have collected sweat, blood (alive and after death) and pulmonary fluid after the death of Jesus. Death by crucifixion was actually a gruesome sight to behold. The victim would suffocate and the fluid built up in the lungs would ooze out of the nose. Isaiah foretold that the suffering Messiah's face would be "marred more than any man" (Isaiah 52:14). In response, a cloth had been lovingly placed around the head of Jesus post-mortem. This cloth was then placed next to the burial cloths in the tomb. The pilgrim Antoninus of Piacenza wrote in 570 AD that the cloth was kept in a cave near Jerusalem. Then in the year 614 AD the Sudarium was smuggled out of Jerusalem during the Persian conquests and brought to Spain where it has been ever since. In the year 840 AD King Alfonso II of Asturias built a chapel and an ark to hold the precious cloth. Interestingly there is a blood stain on the Sudarium which perfectly matches the blood stain on the Shroud of Turin and the blood types are both AB. The cloth is displayed to the public only 3 times a year, one being on Good Friday.

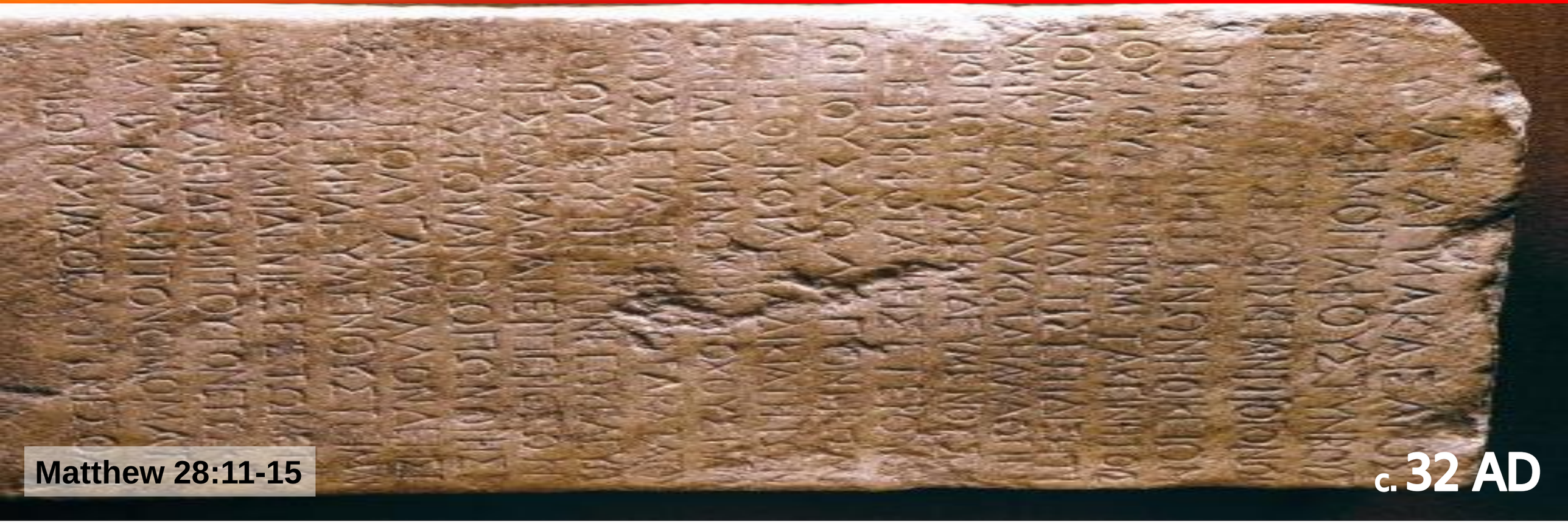
The Sudarium of Oveido and the Shroud of Turin's matching blood stains

32

The Nazareth Inscription – Evidence of the Resurrection News in the Roman Empire

The Louvre, Paris, France. *48°51'37.06"N, 2°20'17.97"E*

(https://biblicalarchaeologygraves.blogspot.com/2014/12/bonus-107-nazareth-inscription.html (accessed November 23, 2018)



Matthew 28:11-15

c. 32 AD

This marble tablet was discovered in Nazareth and was acquired in 1878 by Wilhelm Frohner, a German archaeologist, then sent it to Paris. It is now on display at the Louvre, Paris. It is an edict written in Koine Greek from an unnamed Caesar that orders capital punishment for anyone who disturbs tombs and particularly those who move sepulcher sealing stones. This matches well with the post-resurrection account in the gospels. What is even more interesting is that it was reportedly found in Nazareth, the hometown of Jesus. Based on epigraphy it is dated to the 1st half of the first century. As well, we read in the gospels that at the time of Jesus' death many holy people were raised from the dead and appeared in the city of Jerusalem (Matthew 27:52-53). The reports must have come all the way to the Emperor Tiberius. In recourse, there was an official edict from Caesar that no other graves would be disturbed upon penalty of death. It is therefore, good evidence of the gospel account that the story commonly reported among the Jews after the resurrection was that Jesus' disciples stole the body of Jesus while the guards slept.

The Babylonian Talmud Admits the Resurrection

Chapel of the Ascension, At Tur, Mount of Olives, Jerusalem, Israel. *31°46'44.04"N, 35°14'42.42"E*

(https://www.askideas.com/chapel-of-the-ascension-of-jesus-at-mount-of-olives-in-jerusalem/) (accessed November 23, 2018)

Acts 4:4

1 Corinthians 15:6

A hostile witness is a powerful evidence as it comes from an anti-Christian source, who does not want the Christian faith to propagate, but admits that Jesus Christ was in fact, raised from the dead. The Jewish Talmud contains a hostile witness in Gittin 57a. It reads: "Onkelos then went and raised Jesus the Nazarene from the grave through necromancy."

- HOSTILE WITNESS –
Evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus

A hostile witness is a powerful evidence as it comes from an anti-Christian source, who does not want the Christian faith to propagate, but admits that Jesus Christ was in fact, raised from the dead. The Jewish Talmud contains a hostile witness in Gittin 57a.

אֲזַל אַסְקֵיהּ בִּנְגִידָא לְיֵשׁוּ הַנּוֹצְרִי, אֲמַר לֵיהּ: מַאן חֲשִׁיב בְּהָהוּא עָלְמָא? אֲמַר לֵיהּ: יִשְׂרָאֵל. מַהוּ לְאִדְּבּוֹקֵי בְּהוּ? אֲמַר לֵיהּ: טוֹבָתָם דְּרוֹשׁ, רָעָתָם לֹא תִּדְרוֹשׁ, כָּל הַנּוֹגֵעַ בָּהֶן כְּאִילּוּ נוֹגֵעַ בְּבָבַת עֵינוֹ.

Onkelos then **went** and **raised Jesus the Nazarene** from the grave **through necromancy.** Onkelos **said to him: Who is** most **important in that world** where you are now? Jesus **said to him: The Jewish people.** Onkelos asked him: **Should** I then **attach** myself **to them** in this world? Jesus **said to him: Their welfare you shall seek, their misfortune you shall not seek,** for **anyone who touches them is** regarded **as if he were touching the apple of his eye** (see **Zechariah 2:12**).

Babylonian Talmud, Gittin 57a

34

The Place where Jesus met with His disciples after the Resurrection

Church of the Primacy of St. Peter, Tabgha, Israel. *32°52'18.68"N, 35°33'1.44"E*

(https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Church_peters_primacy.jpg) (accessed November 23, 2018)
(http://cannundrum.blogspot.com/2015/07/church-of-primacy-of-st-peter-tabgha.html) (accessed November 23, 2018)

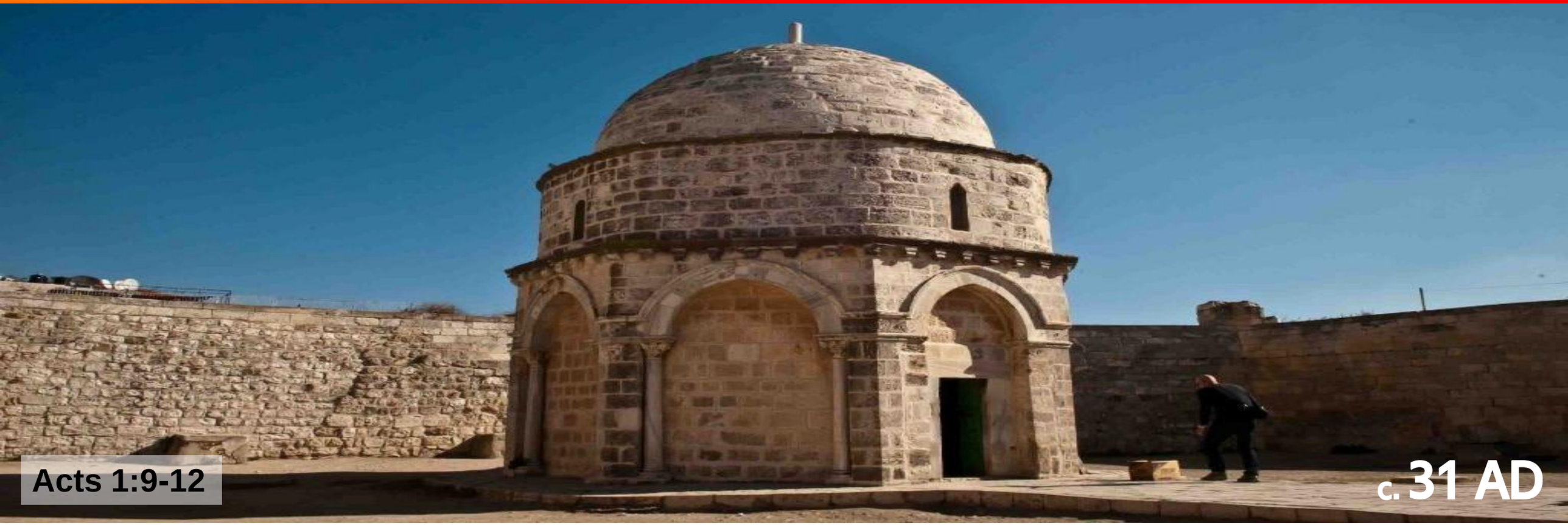
The church of the Primacy of St. Peter, built by the Franciscans in 1933 and made of black basalt, is on the site where early Christians believe Jesus said to Peter "Take care of my sheep" and reinstated him as the foremost of the apostles. This is located in Tabgha, Israel, and is built on 4th century church ruins. In the 9th century this place was called the "Place of the coals" to commemorate where Jesus had a fire of coals near this location. Jesus appeared to His disciples here in His resurrected body and thus the white limestone outcropping has a sign placed by the Franciscans: "This is a holy ground."

35

The Place of the Ascension of Jesus Christ

Chapel of the Ascension, At Tur, Mount of Olives, Jerusalem, Israel. *31°46‘44.04”N, 35°14’42.42"E*

(https://www.askideas.com/chapel-of-the-ascension-of-jesus-at-mount-of-olives-in-jerusalem/) (accessed November 23, 2018)

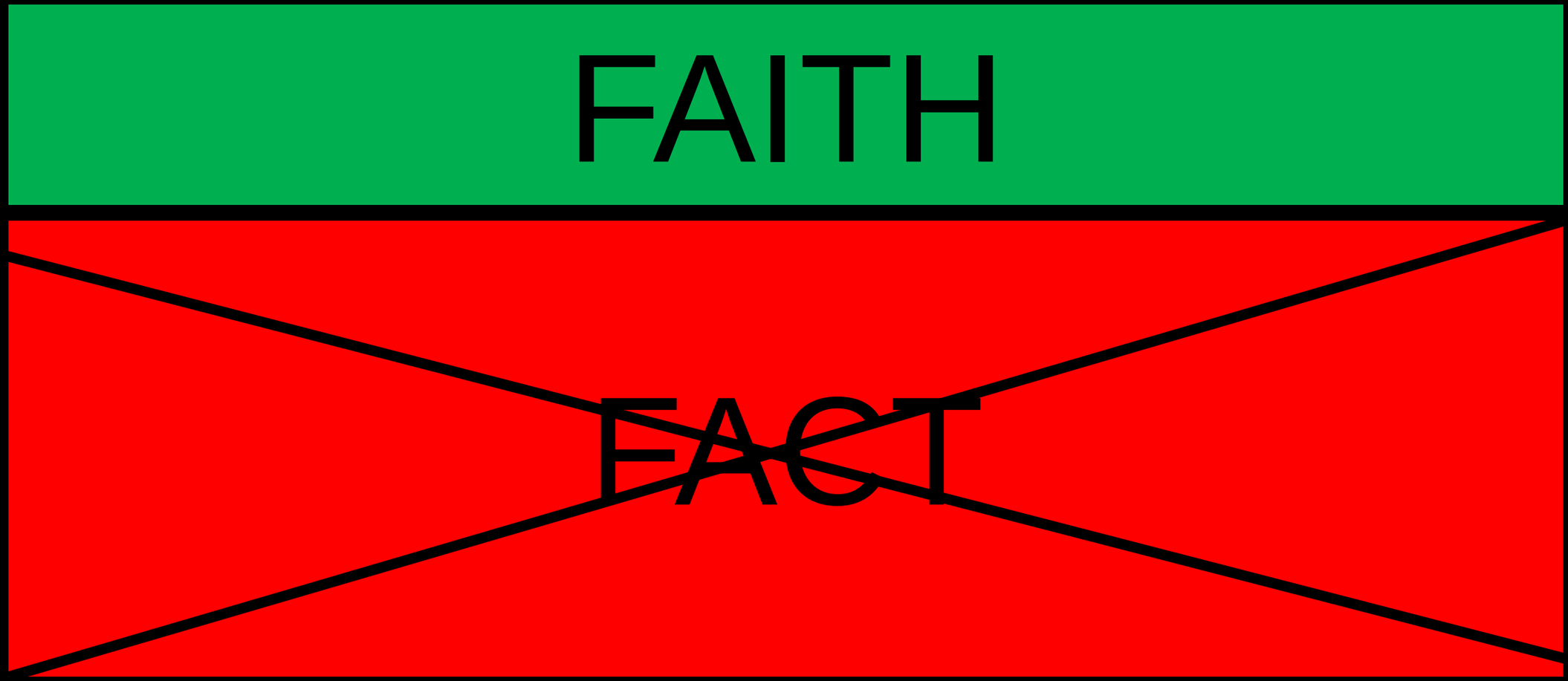


Acts 1:9-12

c. 31 AD

The prophet Zechariah foretold “I For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst,“ The Lord came to be born as a Baby on earth. Then the prophet Hosea foretold that: “I will return again to my place.” The Lord would ascend back to His place. Jesus Christ fulfilled both of these prophecies. For the first three centuries of the early persecuted church, the ascension of Jesus was celebrated in a cave part way up the mountain for safety reasons. However, by the late 4th century, Queen Helena had a circular memorial chapel built at the summit of the Mount of Olives over the site where Jesus ascended. In 384, the Spanish pilgrim Lady Egeria reported visiting the chapel of the ascension where Jesus ascended to heaven 40 days after His resurrection. Unfortunately, this chapel was destroyed in 614 AD by the Persians. Then it was rebuilt but then destroyed again during the conquest in the 10th century. Then the chapel was again rebuilt by the Crusaders in the 12th Century upon the ruins of the Byzantine chapel. This octagonal chapel originally had no roof and was surrounded by pillars. In 1187 Saladin converted this chapel into a mosque complete with a mihrab, showing the direction of Islamic prayer. Since then, although the land is under Islamic jurisdiction, Christians are permitted to come and worship here. In 1835 the walls were filled in and a domed roof added. Inside the chapel is a rock where tradition holds Jesus left His right footprint in the stone as He ascended into heaven bodily. Christians come and worship their risen and ascended Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ of Nazareth in this place.

A reasonable faith is one which is based on observable fact. Without fact it would be a <u>blind</u> faith.



Jesus in the Upper Room

Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace to you.” But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence. Luke 24:36-43

The Christian faith is founded on the certainty of the life, death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. He is Lord and He has given facts for all to see.

FAITH

FACT

His death, burial and resurrection is the most attested fact of history from the ancient world!

Let’s renew our faith in Jesus Christ today and follow Him as His disciples together!